

Meeting Minutes  
Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council  
January 27, 2012  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**I. RAC Attendance and Welcome**

Jeff White, Chairman	Energy/Minerals
Tom Connolly	Federal Grazing
Jack Prier	Environmental
Bruce Holmgren	State Agency
William Wolf	Public-At-Large
Laurie Carson	Elected Official
Jeanne Nations	Wild Horse & Burro
David Meisner	Academia

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present:**

Doug Furtado	District Manager – Battle Mountain District
Mike Herder	Associate District Manager – Ely District
Ken Miller	District Manager – Elko District
Lesli Ellis-Wouters	Public Affairs Representative – Elko District
Jackie Suther	Administrative Assistant – Battle Mountain

7:30 a.m. – Jeff White calls the meeting to order

Bill Wolfe requests a minute of silence for a Pahrump soldier recently killed in action. A moment of silence is observed.

Jeff White welcomes new members, Jeanne Nations and Dave Meisner. Ken Miller welcomes new and reappointed members.

Minutes of August 25, 2011 meeting are presented for approval. Tom Connolly approves as presented, Laurie Carson seconds. All members in favor.

Jeff White presents accomplishments of 2011 for review.

- Built a 2011 workplan
- Reviewed SNPLMA projects and provided advice
- Provided advice on Rangeland Health/Riparian Management
- Provided advice on Wild Horse strategy and policy
- Set up working group for Battle Mountain Resource Management Plan
- Reviewed other projects
  - Spruce Mountain Fuels/Recreation projects
  - Eco-sanctuaries
  - 3-Bars fuels project
  - 7-mile fuels project

All members agree on a successful year of providing meaningful input to the BLM.

Ken Miller and Doug Furtado provide thanks for the hard work of the RAC. Doug Furtado mentions providing feedback to the RAC on their advice and input.

Jeff White announces Ken Miller's temporary departure from Elko District to assume a detail in Denver at the National Operations Center. Mike Herder announces his detail as Ken's replacement in the interim. Mike will continue to serve as the Ely District representative. Jeff White also announces Dave Overcast's selection as the Elko District Associate District Manager vice Steve Dondero.

8 a.m.

Jeff White opens the floor for elections; chair and vice chair.

Tom Connolly nominates Jeff White for chair; Laurie Carson seconds. All members agree. Jeff White is re-elected chair.

Tom Connolly nominates Bill Wolf as vice chair; Jack Prier seconds. All members agree. Bill Wolf is elected as vice chair.

Tom Connolly, on behalf of the entire NEGB RAC, thanks Jeff White for his leadership during the past year. All members agree.

8:05 a.m.

Ken Miller discusses the Recreation RAC sub-committee is planning a meeting later in the year at the California Trail Center. This sub-committee address rules and regulations on recreation activities such as Red Rock or campgrounds. There were no proposals to alter rules or address things like fees this year so there was no meeting. The California Trail Center is contemplating a fee which is why the RecRAC will meet there.

Laurie Carson mentions she would like a better explanation of the RecRAC and its roles and responsibilities. Ken Miller suggests the RecRAC have a meeting once a year, at least by phone to orient members on their roles and responsibilities (to be briefed at Tri-RAC reconvening).

Members to RecRAC are nominated and accepted. Returning members are Laurie Carson and Jack Prier; new members are Larry Hyslop and Julie Hughes.

8:15 a.m.

## 2102 Work Plan Development

Ideas introduced:

- Recreation Planning
  - OHV use, travel management, recreation planning, ATV use
  - Fee, monitoring and maintenance
  - Recreation development; vision of recreation
- Greater Sage Grouse
  - Projects occurring within priority habitat
  - Interim Policy and understanding input
  - IM and conservation measures dates 12/21/11 report to RAC members

- Energy
  - Transmission lines
  - Weed management
  - Habitat enhancement recommendations/Mitigation measures
- Wild Horse Management
  - Eco-sanctuary proposals for RAC Advice
    - Awaiting National Approval before NEPA can be initiated

Jeanne Nations opens discussion on eco-tourism. Several members discuss Madeline Pickens eco-sanctuary and her request to convert cattle AUMs to horses, possible future litigation, payment for horses. Ken Miller discusses the plan for eco-sanctuaries to be of a benefit to the tax payer and possibly taking the place of long-term holding. There is discussion about creating a Wild Horse & Burro sub-committee (The sub-committee is discussed at the Tri-RAC reconvening).

9 a.m. – 15-minute break

9:15 a.m. (Amy Lueders joins the RAC)

Doug Furtado continues the discussion on WH&B and talks about opportunities for the RAC to observe upcoming gathers. Amy mentions the use of contraceptive devices such as spay-vac, gelding. Recommends RAC provide input on controlling populations.

Jeanne Nations requests special access to gathers due concerns she has with handling. Amy Lueders states we have to be concerned about liability, accountability and transparency. Current viewing is regulated due to liability and litigation issues.

Work Plan Strategy continued.

- Rangeland Health, standards and guidelines
  - Nevada specific advice
  - Consistency throughout districts
  - Science based data

Several members discuss the length of time for BLM actions, inconsistencies throughout Districts, science-based data vice emotional. Tom Connolly states the BLM needs to work with stakeholders to formulate a plan for consistency to perpetuate rangeland health. Tom states the BLM needs to be more flexible, like permittees have to be. Doug Furtado states the BLM needs to develop a standard, efficient, consistent process. Amy Lueders agrees about consistency and efficiency. There needs to be a more comprehensive way to do things for broad-scale actions.

- Battle Mountain RMP
  - Sub-committee formed

Prioritization of work plan and meeting dates discussed:

(Dates and locations were adjusted at the Tri-RAC reconvening and are reflected here)

- April 19 – Elko (California Trail Center)

- Rangeland Health
- BM RMP
- Greater Sage-grouse
- Recreation
- July 19-20 – Ely District Office (Shared with MOSO RAC)
  - Greater Sage-grouse Lek habitat
  - Spring Valley Wind
  - Falcon-Gonder/Online (SWIP)
  - *Optional - Shared tour to Pickens Ranch with MOSO RAC*
- Sept. 20 – Battle Mountain District Office
  - Wild horses
  - Shoshone OHV Trail

10:44 a.m. meeting adjourned